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The University of Dayton's Law School Reopens Due to Changing Conditions

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DAYTON, Ohio, December 10, 1973 --- The reopening of the University of Dayton's School of Law after nearly 40 years is due to changing conditions in the area of legal education, according to the Reverend Charles Lees, University Provost.

"When UD closed its School of Law," he said, "it was a small college with few facilities in an era when the demand for lawyers was quite limited. The University is now a well-populated school, with some outstanding facilities, in an era where the number of lawyers will be doubled by 1985."

He further cited the following statistics:

- In the last 10 years enrollment in law schools has doubled.
- During the same period the number of women law students grew from approximately 1,500 to nearly 9,000.
- In the last 10 years evening enrollment has grown nearly 60%--from 12,000 to 19000.
- In 1971 there was a 45% gain over the previous year increase in the number of students taking law school admission tests. (A 30% increase was expected for 1972.)

Why the great surge of interest in law? Father Lees offers some explanations:

- Many young people believe "that is where the action is."
- Social concern of youth.
- Shortage of opportunities in other professions.
- The social areas which government has been emphasizing make demands on the legal profession -- housing, urban development, consumer protection, etc.
- Public administration, especially in state and local government, is a fruitful field.

A certificate of Authorization for the reopening of the University of Dayton Law School was issued by the Ohio Board of Regents last month.

A feasibility committee comprised of judges, lawyers and educators reasoned that a nationally-oriented university such as the University of Dayton is strengthened by having a number of high quality professional schools, and that the addition of a law school of high quality will effectively promote the University's goals and help meet a critical social need.

The need for additional persons trained in legal education was stressed by the committee chairman, Professor William Hoben, Dean of the University of Dayton School of Business Administration. "The Federal government, in recent years," he said, "has made it imperative that more and more people be given expert assistance in legal matters."

"Universities today," Hoben concluded, "need to stress academic areas that directly relate to the needs of the community. A law school certainly fits this need. Students from engineering, economics, social sciences and business want to complement their education by pursuing study in law. The need is here and will be here for sometime. I feel the University can fulfill that need."